

Application No.: 09/938,551

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated August 31, 2004

Response to the Office Action of June 29, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A punch press comprising:

a press frame including an upper transferring and loading path and a lower transferring and loading path, wherein a an upper cartridge capable of loading a punch tool and a lower cartridge capable of loading a die tool corresponding to the punch tool ~~can freely move in or move out~~ are freely movable in and out of the press frame via the upper and lower transferring and loading paths;

a ram for driving the punch tool loaded on the upper cartridge employed in the press frame; and

a cartridge transferring and loading means for transferring the upper and lower cartridges independently of each other, enabling the storing and the discharging of the upper and lower cartridges to be independently to the stored inside the press frame and discharged outside of the press frame.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The punch press according to claim 1, wherein said upper and lower transferring and loading paths ~~can~~ respectively store at least two cartridges in the front and back of the moving in and moving out direction at different positions in a longitudinal

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direction of the press frame, and the cartridge transferring and loading means can transfer
transfers the front and back at least two cartridges independently of each other.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The punch press according to claim 1 or claim 2, further
comprising:

an engaging and disengaging member freely engageable and disengageable to a cartridge
along the transferring and loading path,

wherein the cartridge transferring and loading means transfers the cartridge by the
transferring of the engaging member ~~engaged to the cartridge freely engaging and disengaging~~
along the transferring and loading path when the engaging member is engaged to the cartridge,
and the transferring and loading path[[,]] and the a transferring path of the engaging and
disengaging member are a straight lined path.